

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the Claims as follows with additions shown as underlines and deletions shown as strikeouts.

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1. (Cancelled).
  2. (Cancelled)
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  16. (Cancelled)
  17. (Cancelled)
  18. (Cancelled)
  19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method for partitioning a video image between a foveated area and a background area comprising the steps of:

defining a foveation point in the video image;

defining a foveated area in proximity to said foveation point;

extracting a first plurality of data signals from said video image representing said foveated area;

extracting a second plurality of data signals from said video image representing a background area;

encoding the extracted first plurality of data signals with a first error correction protocol to create a first encoded signal; and

encoding the extracted second plurality of data signals with a second error correction protocol different from the first error correction protocol to create a second encoded signal wherein the first error correction protocol comprises a first FEC algorithm and the second error correction protocol comprises a second FEC algorithm, the first FEC algorithm being more powerful than the second FEC algorithm.

21. (Previously Amended) The method according to Claim 20 wherein the step of defining said foveation point comprises the step of:

pointing a video device at a location of the image using a means for pointing.

22. (Previously Amended) The method according to Claim 21 wherein the

pointing means comprises at least one of: a computer keyboard; a computer mouse; a joystick, and an eye tracking device.

23. (Previously Amended) The method according to Claim 20 further comprising the step of:

calculating a local bandwidth threshold based on said foveation point; and

wherein the step of defining said foveation area comprises the steps of:

calculating a local bandwidth for each pixel group in said video image;

and

incorporating those pixel groups having a respective local bandwidth above said local bandwidth threshold into said foveation area.

24. (Previously Amended) The method according to Claim 20 further comprising the steps of:

packetizing the first encoded signal with inserted synchronization markers occurring after a first predetermined number of bits; and

packetizing the second encoded signal with the inserted synchronization markers occurring after a second predetermined number of bits wherein the first number is smaller than the second number.

25. (Previously Amended) A method for the processing of video image data received from a first electronic device, the first electronic device having performed the

steps of:

defining a foveation point in a video image;

defining at least one foveated area around said foveation point;

extracting a first plurality of data signals representing said foveated area;

extracting a second plurality of data signals representing a background

area;

encoding the extracted first plurality of data signals with a first error correction protocol to create a first encoded signal; and

encoding the extracted second plurality of data signals with a second error correction protocol different from the first error correction protocol to create a second encoded signal, the method comprising the steps of:

decoding the first transmitted encoded signal and

correcting errors within the first transmitted encoded signal with use of a

high priority processing step to create a received foveated area; and

decoding the second transmitted encoded signal and

correcting errors within the second transmitted encoded signal with use of

a low priority processing step to create a received background area.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Amended) The method according to Claim 20 wherein the first plurality of data signals comprises all pixel signals included in a high-resolution area of said video image.

32. (Previously Amended) The method according to Claim 20 wherein the first plurality of data signals comprises all pixel signals that are included in a high motion area of said video image.

33. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 20 wherein the first error correction protocol ~~comprises at least one of parity checks, cyclic redundancy checks, forward error correction algorithms, automatic repeat request algorithms or error resiliency conforming~~ conforms to video communications industry standards H263++ and/or MPEG-4.

34. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 20 wherein the second error correction protocol ~~comprises at least one of parity checks, cyclic redundancy checks, forward error correction algorithms, or error resiliency conforming~~ conforms to video communications industry standards H263++ and/or MPEG-4.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Amended) The method according to Claim 20 further comprising the steps of:

transmitting the first encoded signal; and

transmitting the second encoded signal at a predetermined time after the transmitting of said first encoded signal.

37. (Cancelled).

38. (Previously Amended) The method according to Claim 25 further comprising the step of:

combining the received foveated area and the received background area to create the video image data.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 20~~ A method for partitioning a video image between a foveated area and a background area comprising the steps of:

defining a foveation point in the video image;

defining a foveated area in proximity to said foveation point;

extracting a first plurality of data signals from said video image representing said foveated area;

extracting a second plurality of data signals from said video image representing a background area;

encoding the extracted first plurality of data signals with a first error correction protocol to create a first encoded signal; and

encoding the extracted second plurality of data signals with a second error correction protocol different from the first error correction protocol to create a second encoded signal wherein the first error correction protocol comprises a first ARQ communications protocol having a first allowable error threshold associated therewith and the second error correction protocol comprises a second ARQ communications protocol having a second allowable error threshold associated therewith, the first allowable error threshold being lower than the second allowable error threshold.

41. (New) The method according to Claim 40 wherein the step of defining said foveation point comprises the step of pointing a video device at a location of the image using a means for pointing.

42. (New) The method according to Claim 41 wherein the pointing means comprises at least one of: a computer keyboard; a computer mouse; a joystick, and an eye tracking device.

43. (New) The method according to Claim 40 further comprising the step of: calculating a local bandwidth threshold based on said foveation point; and

wherein the step of defining said foveation area comprises the steps of:

calculating a local bandwidth for each pixel group in said video image;

and

incorporating those pixel groups having a respective local bandwidth above said local bandwidth threshold into said foveation area.

44. (New) The method according to Claim 40 further comprising the steps of:

packetizing the first encoded signal with inserted synchronization markers occurring after a first predetermined number of bits; and

packetizing the second encoded signal with the inserted synchronization markers occurring after a second predetermined number of bits wherein the first number is smaller than the second number.